

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is an issue of partisan politics prior to a federal election. There is no reason for this. If Sinclair chooses to use our airwaves to broadcast a clearly anti-Kerry piece than they should be required to follow it up with "Going Upriver" a pro-Kerry movie or maybe "Fahrenheit 9/11" an anti-Bush movie. I would prefer that they simply don't show partisan movies at all. I think that would be a fairer use of OUR airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.